NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

September 22, 1995

ATTENTION! REPAIRS TO AIR CONDITIONING

The air conditioning for the entire building will be shut down for repairs next week, Monday - Wednesday, September 25 - 27. If it rains on those days, the repairs will be cancelled. Call **Bob** or **Tim** (x222) with any questions.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE CHANGE

The Office of Academic Affairs has moved to new quarters near the Botany Chair's Office (third floor, northeast corner of the building). The Academic Affairs phone number is ext. 559. **Towanda Simmons** may be reached at x844, **Lori Breslauer** at x627, **Barbara Harney** at x877 and **Peter R. Crane** at x 559.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for September 19, 1995 was given by **Washington Ayiemba,** Research Officer, Kipepeo Project, Kenya, and participant, Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity.

In general terms, the Kipepeo Project seeks to develop a novel source of local income through sustainable utilization of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in coastal Kenya. The long term goal is to link forest conservation with economic development, and thereby sustain the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest which comprises the last remnant of a coastal forest ecosystem stretching from Somalia to southern Mozambique, and home to a number of endemic bird and mammal species, as well as butterfly species comprising mimetic complexes. The specific goal is to locally rear select butterfly species for sale to butterfly houses in Europe for public display. Washington described the barriers that had to be overcome in implementing the Kipepeo Project beginning in 1994. Because the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is a national reserve and protected from exploitation, considerable efforts were required to obtain the necessary governmental approval for access to the forest to obtain butterflies for subsequent rearing. Significant effort was also involved in altering the perceptions of the local villagers to participate in the project. The local economy is based on products derived from coconut palm, cashews, mangoes and maize. From this agricultural perspective, forest conservation was seen as either irrelevant or actually negative since elephant herds protected within the forest reserve would periodically cause serious damage to their crops. The notion that someone would actually pay money for a butterfly also met with little initial support. During the initial work, Washington conducted detailed

surveys of the butterfly species and their larval host food plants. A variety of techniques to rear larvae were also developed. People from 134 households were eventually involved in all aspects of rearing butterflies to the pupal stage. They also solved a number of problems involved with successfully packaging live pupae for shipment to European dealers. After one year, sales of pupae of only fourteen species generated $15,000 of income which represented about 20% of the total local economy. The next phase seeks to assist the villagers in becoming completely independent butterfly breeders/marketers. It is hoped that non-European markets can be developed to eliminate the highly seasonal nature of product demand in Europe which terminates in the winter while their equatorial locale would permit year-round production. In conclusion, Washington raised the question, "Has the project really made a difference?" and answered it in part by noting that it is simply too early to tell because many of the potential benefits are only now becoming truly visible.

-- John Kethley

INVERTEBRATE CURATORS RETURN FROM INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN SPAIN

Janet Voight and **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology, Invertebrates) have returned from Vigo, Spain, where they took part in the 12th International Congress of Unitas Malacologica, the International Society of Malacology. The meeting was well attended, with several hundred participants from 57 countries. Both presented papers on molluscan phylogeny: Janet's contribution dealt with the "Phylogenetic analysis of higher order relationships among the Octopoda and the status of the family Vitreledonellidae," and Rüdiger presented results from joint research with **Tim Collins**, under the title, "A combined morphological and molecular analysis of gastropod relationships." While in Europe, Rüdiger used the opportunity to collect marine gastropod specimens for histological and molecular research and to study museum collections in France, Germany and Spain.

BIELER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL MALALCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

At the congress in Spain, **Rüdiger Bieler** was elected as the new President of Unitas Malacologica (UM). He will hold this office for three years. This is the first time that the presidency of the International Malacological Society has been given to a scientist residing outside Europe. Rüdiger, who is already serving as President of the American Malacological Union (AMU), has begun preparations for a World Congress of Malacology in summer of 1988. That congress, jointly organized by AMU and UM, will take place in Washington, D.C. (This does not change Rüdiger's plans for the AMU national meeting at The Field Museum in June/July 1996.)

Many congratulations to **Barbara Harney** and **Bruce Patterson** on the birth of their son, **Daniel Francis.** Daniel was born September 19, 1995 and weighed in at 7lbs., 5oz. Mom, Dad and baby are doing fine.

AIDS VIDEO UNVEILED

A new video on the Museum's collections-based AIDS research was recently installed on the second floor balcony in Plants of the World. The video, funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute, follows Botany research associate **Dr. Doel Soejarto** to the Philippines and Malaysia as he collects samples for an NCI program which hopes to find a cure for AIDS in natural plant chemicals.

The video was directed and produced by **John Paterson.** Joan Esposito of Channel 5 News provided the narration, and promoted the exhibit on the air shortly after it opened. Others working on the project include **Amy McManus, Mary Ann Williams, Doel Soejarto, John Engel,** and **Gene Dillenburg.** (I hope I remembered everyone this time!) Thanks to **Neil Keliher** and **Geoff Grove** for the installation.

This December, the video will temporarily move to the Ground Floor outside Hall E, where it will join the AIDS exhibit case and a section of the AIDS quilt in our annual commemoration of World AIDS Day. Afterwards, the video and the case will return to the balcony and be displayed together. The film should run for at least a year.

Welcome! New Employees -- August, 1995

Heather Bolton	Visitor Services	x378
Wendell Davis	Security	x322
Lynn Johnson	Personnel	x356
James Pulizzi	Zoology	x428
Leonard Schwartz	Institutional Advancement	x885

NEW JOB OPENINGS

Below are the latest job opportunities in the Museum. For further information and previous job openings, please check the Career Opportunities listing published by the Personnel Department.

Assistant Developer -- Exhibits
Darkroom Technician/Clerk III -- Photography
Secretary II -- Public Relations Department
Assistant Exhibit Designer -- Exhibits

THE VOLUNTEER SPECTATOR

Beginning on September 9 through September 30, volunteers will attend training sessions to learn about the cultures and objects represented in our Mesoamerica hall. Upon completion of the program, volunteers will lead school and visitor tours, and present hall activities. The Education Department gratefully welcomes the following volunteers for Mesoamerica programs:

Shirley Anderson
Katherine Austin
Maria Arias
Maria Concepcion Bernal
Madelyn Botello
Maurizio Bottoni
Eleanor Burns-Larson
Kevin Cahill
Joan Connor
Gabriele Correa da Silva
Eileen Day
Monica DeLeon
Milicent Drower
Laura Dunlap
Mildred Frank
Alta Mae Frobish
Josephine Garcia
Denise Gibbons
Alicia Hernandez
Sara Hughes
Barbara Imler
Debbie Jargstorf
Naomi Johnson
Kristi Kincheloe
Carol King
Kay Kovacs
Leonore Levit
Bess Lumpkin
Marita Maxey
Arturo Medina
Gertrude Novak
Nancy O'Keefe
Gary Ossewaarde
Michael Polich
Frederick Rodriguez
Eva Roman
Sarah Rosenbloom
Rudyard Sadlier
Cesar Sanchez
Maria Theresa Sanford
Jay Savage
Karin Schmeckpeper
Anne Marie Sherry
Richard Soska
Robert Spieler
Debbie Tenofsky
Stephen Thorsen
Nicole Welner